Press Release
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For Immediate Release

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BANA Invites Guests to Spring Board Meeting in St. Louis

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA), which meets semiannually, will hold its spring meeting on April 28–30, 2012, in St. Louis, Missouri. This meeting is hosted by the National Braille Association (NBA), a BANA member organization, and will be held following the NBA Conference, which is April 25–28. All meetings will take place at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac, located at 1335 South Lindbergh Drive, St. Louis, Missouri.

BANA will host an Open Forum on Saturday morning, April 28, at 9:00 AM. This forum provides an opportunity for participants to learn more about the workings of BANA and to provide feedback to the Board about braille. BANA Board members want to hear participants' views about issues surrounding braille and its future. Braille readers, teachers, and producers of braille are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to participate in a round-table discussion and to engage in a dialogue with the members of the BANA Board. To reserve your space at the Open Forum and to help ensure accurate counts for handouts, contact Frances Mary D'Andrea at 412-521-5797 or by email at literacy2@mindspring.com.

Guests are invited to attend the BANA Board meetings and to observe the discussions. Items on the Board's agenda include reports from all of BANA's committees as well as several presentations in response to BANA's recent article regarding the need for braille code change. Peter Osborne, Chair of the United Kingdom Association for Accessible Formats (UKAAF), will be in attendance and will provide an international perspective. To reserve a seat, please contact BANA Chair Frances Mary D'Andrea.

For additional resource information, visit www.brailleauthority.org

The mission and purpose of the Braille Authority of North America are to assure literacy for tactile readers through the standardization of braille and/or tactile graphics. BANA promotes and facilitates the use, teaching, and production of braille. It publishes rules, interprets, and renders opinions pertaining to braille in all existing codes. It deals with codes now in existence or to be developed in the future, in collaboration with other countries using English braille. In exercising its function and authority, BANA considers the effects of its decisions on other existing braille codes and formats; the ease of production by various methods; and acceptability to readers.